

Applic. No. 10/701,836
Amdt. dated July 19, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 19, 2006

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 19-46 remain in the application. Claims 41 and 44 have been amended. Claims 21, 43, 45, and 46 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the last paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 19, 20, 22-42, and 44 have been rejected as being obvious over Mosquera (U.S. Patent No. 5,295,862) (hereinafter "'862") in view of Mosquera (U.S. Patent No. 5,509,814) (hereinafter "'814") under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and as a whole the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, claims 41 and 44 have been amended to recite the same limitation as claims 19 and 40.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 19, 40, 41, and 44 call for, *inter alia*:

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a top retaining section defining a plurality of retaining teeth of different lengths.

The Examiner correctly stated on page 3 of the Office action that the '862 reference does not disclose a top portion having a plurality of retaining teeth of different lengths.

This is because '862 discloses five bent-over tabs (54) that are all the same length in a top portion of the connector (Fig. 4). Fig. 4 of '862 shows the flat punched sheet metal, which is bent into the connector shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Fig. 4 of '862 explicitly shows that additional fingers (56 and 58) are not cut out from an upper retaining section of the sheet metal. Instead '862 shows that the fingers (56 and 58) are cut from a center shank section of the connector.

The '814 reference discloses a socket contact that is provided with fingers (42, 44, and 46) which are also cut from the center shank portion, in the same manner as shown in Fig. 4 of '862. The fingers (42, 44, and 46) of '814 are thus also not provided in a top retaining section of a fixing pin.

Therefore, the connectors in '862 and '814 do not differ from each other in that respect. Accordingly, it is respectfully believed that the Examiner's use of the '814 reference to

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modify the '862 reference does not meet the limitations of the claims as recited.

It is a requirement for a *prima facie* case of obviousness, that the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The references do not show or suggest a top retaining section defining a plurality of retaining teeth of different lengths, as recited in Claims 19, 40, 41, and 44 of the instant application.

The Examiner correctly stated on page 3 of the Office action, that the '862 reference does not disclose a top portion having a plurality of retaining teeth of different lengths.

As seen from the above given comments, just as in the '862 reference, the '814 reference discloses fingers that are cut from the center portion of the connector. '814 does not disclose that the fingers are cut from the top portion of the connector. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which a top retaining section defines a plurality of retaining teeth of different lengths.

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The references applied by the Examiner do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Therefore, it is respectfully believed that the Examiner has not produced a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Moreover, the fingers (42, 44, and 46) in '814 are not provided for undercutting the hole edge of a locating hole of a support part, i.e. for adjoining the hole edge on the rear or bottom side of the locating hole. Instead, '814 discloses that the connector is inserted into a hole having a depth that is greater than the length of the fingers (42, 44, and 46) provided in the center shaft section. Accordingly, '814 discloses that the fingers (42, 44, and 46) solely serve to cling against the hole wall and not provided for undercutting a hole edge on its bottom side.

Since claims 19 and 41 are believed to be allowable, dependent claims 20, 22-39, 42, and 44 are believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 19, 40, 41, or 44. Claims 19, 40, 41 and 44 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims

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are ultimately dependent on claims 19, 41, 44, they are
believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of
claims 1-46 are solicited.

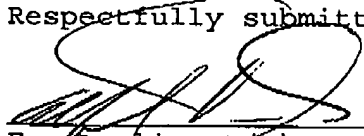
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims
to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone
call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked
out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition
for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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